

15 October 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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C O N T E N T S

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

South Vietnamese Political Developments: South Vietnam's first representative national political body, the constituent assembly, is experiencing problems in adopting the rules governing its procedure.

The delegates, after several heated sessions, endorsed on 12 October an article stipulating that the purpose of the assembly is to draft a constitution, without mentioning any broader powers. In the next day's session, a vote was taken on whether to reopen discussion of the controversial article. Unfortunately, 117 votes were counted and only 103 delegates were present. When this discrepancy was pointed out, considerable chaos resulted, and subsequent discussion of the article was put off to a later date.

By decree, the delegates cannot elect permanent officers or begin their constitution-drafting task until the approximately 14 chapters of the rules of procedure are adopted. Only a portion of the first chapter had been adopted by the end of Thursday's session. The deputies had hoped to elect permanent officers next week.

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Algeria: The recent dismissal of two left-wing members of the Boumediene government may initially cause tension but the longer range consequences are likely to be beneficial.

Last weekend Information Minister Bachir Boumaza, whom Boumediene claims he had dismissed several days earlier, announced his defection and support for the Europe-based Clandestine Organization of the Algerian Republic. Late last month Agriculture Minister Ali Mahsas was replaced after a long period in which his powers had been progressively curtailed. A press report states that the two ousted ministers met in London on 12 October to plan Boumediene's overthrow.

Both Boumaza and Mahsas had been close to former president Ben Bella before his ouster in June 1965. Although Boumediene sought a consensus of all political views, the strength of his alliance with these leftists was always viewed with skepticism.

With the aid of tightened security measures, Boumediene probably can ride out an increase in activity by self-exiled opposition elements. By removing the source of considerable opposition to his programs, the purge may enable him to govern more effectively.

The US Embassy in Algiers believes that in the short run Boumediene may try to prove he has not sold out to the right or to the West with even more strident statements on international issues, such as Vietnam, than he has made recently. [REDACTED]

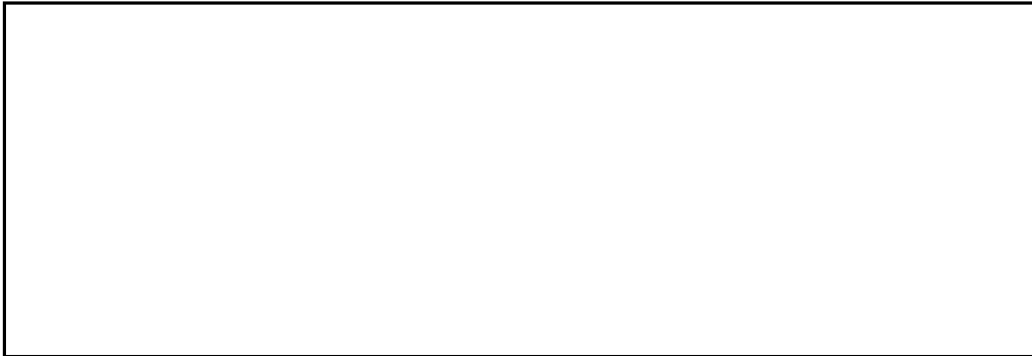
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NOTES



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Iran- USSR:



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[redacted] the Shah indicated that Moscow was unhappy that he had made a new arms agreement with the US before receiving a response to his request for Soviet military equipment last summer. Meanwhile,

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[redacted] the Shah has ordered that the current arms negotiations with the Russians be limited to discussion of antiaircraft guns. There is no indication that Moscow will refuse to provide these.



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Japan: Press exposure of scandals in the Sato administration has temporarily placed the Prime Minister on the defensive. The attacks are encouraging criticism of Sato's leadership within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, but no rival now seriously threatens his re-election as party president in December. If the public furor does not subside as expected, however, Sato's standing within the party and within the country will suffer.



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Mexico: A Communist front group, National Central of Democratic Students (CNED), is attempting to organize a nationwide student strike to protest the recent military occupation of the autonomous university in Morelia. CNED is reportedly acting under the instruction of the leaders of the Communist Party of Mexico. Police on 13 October arrested three Communist students from Mexico City who went to Tepic to lead a university strike. [REDACTED]

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Ecuador: Sunday's election of 67 delegates to a constituent assembly probably will spark only scattered incidents of violence. Although the assembly will select a provisional president, public indifference is apparent throughout the country and may result in a light vote. Official results will not be known for at least a week. It is unlikely that any party or coalition will be able to elect enough delegates to control the assembly, which is scheduled to convene on 3 November. [REDACTED]

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Dominican Republic: A small group of Dominican Communists are soon to take a three-month guerrilla training course in Cuba, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Over the past few years a number of Dominican extremists have received paramilitary training in Communist countries. There is no firm sign, however, that the splintered far left plans to undertake active insurgency in the near future. [REDACTED]

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